

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A membrane body (10) comprising at least one flat membrane and a hollow membrane (11) at least partially surrounded by said at least one flat membrane (12).

2. A membrane body (10) according to claim 1, wherein said hollow membrane (11) is fully surrounded by said at least one flat membrane (12).

3. A membrane body (10) according to claim 1, wherein said hollow membrane (11) is surrounded by at least two flat membranes (12).

4. A membrane body (10) according to claim 1, wherein said hollow membrane (11) and said at least one flat membrane (12) are interconnected.

5. A membrane body (10) according to claim 1, wherein said hollow membrane (11) and said at least one flat membrane (12) consist of at least one polymer, or co-polymer.

6. A membrane body (10) according to claim 1, wherein at least two hollow membranes are provided and form a hollow membrane mat or hollow membrane bundle consisting preferably of polypropylene.

7. A membrane body (10) according to claim 1, wherein the flat membrane (12) is manufactured from a polymer solution.

8. A membrane body (10) according to claim 7, wherein said polymer solution is 10% polyacrylnitrile/dimethylformamide polymer solution.

9. A membrane body (10) according to claim 1, wherein said membrane body includes reinforcement structures in the form of one of particles, fleece and fiber structures disposed in the polymer solution.

10. A method for the manufacture of a membrane body (10) comprising the steps of: providing at least one hollow membrane (11) and applying to said at least one hollow membrane (11), a flat membrane (12) such that the flat membrane (11) at least partially surrounds said hollow membrane.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein said hollow membrane 11 and said flat membrane 12 are interconnected.

12. A method according to claim 10, wherein said hollow membrane (11) and said flat membrane consist of at least one of a polymer and a copolymer.

13. A method according to claim 10, wherein said hollow membrane (11) is combined with at least a second hollow membrane (11) to form a hollow membrane mat or bundle.

14. A method according to claim 13, wherein said hollow membrane mat or bundle consists of propylene.

15. A method according to claim 10, wherein said flat membrane (12) is formed from a polymer solution.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein said polymer solution consists of polyacrylnitrile/dimethylformamide.

17. A method according to claim 10, wherein said polymer forming said membrane body includes reinforcement means consisting of at least one of particles, a fleece and fibers.